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# AKRON OHIO STAKE

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## *Stake Presidency Message*

### In the Service of Your Fellow Beings

One of my very favorite examples of service was shared by Rex D. Pinegar. He relates the following experience:



President Coburn

One morning several years ago, I was driving with my family to Disney World in Florida. Our four young daughters were excited as we approached the turnoff to that famous park. The laughter and happy chatter stopped suddenly, however, as our rented station wagon sputtered and chugged to an unexpected stop on the exit ramp. Many cars sped by us in the rush-hour traffic as I tried unsuccessfully to get the car running again. Finally, realizing there was nothing more we could do, we got out of the stalled car and huddled together off the road for a word of prayer.

As we looked up from our prayer, we saw a smiling, handsome man and his son maneuver their bright red sports car through the lanes of traffic and pull off the road beside us. For the remainder of the morning and into the afternoon, these men assisted us and cared for our needs in many kind and helpful ways. They took us and our belongings to the receiving area at the park. In their small car, it took several trips. They helped me locate a tow truck for the stranded car; they drove me to the rental agency to get a replacement vehicle. Then, because there was some delay, they drove back to where my family waited to let them know where I was. They bought refreshments for them and then waited with my family until I returned several hours later.

We felt that these men were truly an answer to our prayer, and we told them so as we said goodbye and tried to thank them. The father responded, "Every morning I tell the good Lord that if there is anyone in need of my help today, please guide me to them."

What a wonderful prayer. "If there is anyone in need of my help today, please guide me to them."

Many years ago, I had a memorable experience of helping someone in need. I was driving to work on a snowy winter morning in Dayton, Ohio. As I exited the interstate, there was a car that was stalled.

I felt that I should stop and help.

The man was very grateful and asked if I could give him a ride to his destination. On the way to his destination, we were getting acquainted when he paused and asked, "Are you a Mormon?" I was shocked by the question. There was nothing I had said that would indicate my religion.

Bewildered, I asked him how he knew.

He responded something about being happy and helpful. I asked him if he was a member, and he said he was not, but he did believe in God. We had a nice conversation, and he happily took a copy of a Book of Mormon, which I kept in my glove box.

I have found that if I am ever feeling down, the way to fix that is by helping others. This brings real happiness. Whether large or small, involved or simple, when we are in the service of our fellow beings, we are truly in the service of our God. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

# AKRON STAKE JUSTSERVE SPECIALIST

My name is Mary Beth Niemeyer, and our family is fairly new to this area. We are excited to get to know more people in our stake. Eric and I have been blessed with six children through the miracle of adoption. Our oldest is married and living in Wyoming. Our next one is at BYU-I; we have a senior in high school, a middle schooler, and two in elementary school.

I was recently called as the stake JustServe specialist. I LOVE to serve!! I was raised in a family where I learned service is important and very rewarding.

Some of you are probably wondering what JustServe is and why I'm telling you about it. The JustServe Initiative has an app you can download to your phone



THE AKRON MEMBERS OF  
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF  
LATTER DAY SAINTS  
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND AN

## EASTER CONCERT

AN HOUR OF SACRED MUSIC CELEBRATING THE  
SEASON WITH SELECTIONS FROM  
HANDEL'S MESSIAH

APRIL  
FRIDAY **7** AT 7 PM  
2023

106 EAST HOWE ROAD  
TALLMADGE

and look for service opportunities near you. We don't want to put an extra load on your plates. We just want you to know that this is here, and you can use this tool if you wish. Anyone, member of the church or not, can use this tool. If you have a friend or neighbor with a serving heart, tell them about the initiative and app.

If you are already serving somewhere, I'd love to know about it to see if I can research the place where you're serving to see if it is something appropriate to add to the app for others to join in service there.

My goal is to help you to help others. I'd love for our youth and, where possible, even our primary-age children to gain a testimony of the blessing of serving/helping others. I'd love to see us working hand in hand with our neighbors so they may see our true love for the Savior and the light we have in our lives as we serve as His hands and feet on Earth.

You can call, text, or email me with any questions or suggestions at 719-931-3445 or [mbx2andguys@gmail.com](mailto:mbx2andguys@gmail.com).

Thank you, and again, I look forward to meeting you!

# FEEDING MEDINA COUNTY

Over the past several years, our stake has partnered closely with Feeding Medina County to provide service and funding to further their mission of providing much-needed food to several thousand people every month.

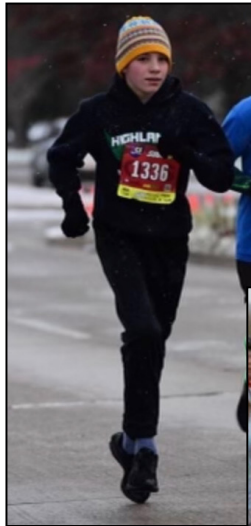
At a recent Stake Relief Society event, Katy Fuerst, Executive Director of Feeding Medina County, shared how the organization helps those in need. Sisters assembled more than 400 bags for elderly neighbors served by Feeding Medina County to ensure they have food basics. Additionally, through the Church's welfare grant program, Feeding Medina County was awarded a sizable and meaningful grant to enable them to continue to make a difference for those in our midst struggling with food insecurity.



You can help - visit [www.justserve.org](http://www.justserve.org) for opportunities help Feeding Medina County

# AKRON/CANTON FOOD BANK

Thank you to everyone who attended the stake-sponsored Selfless Elf Run benefiting the Akron/Canton Food Bank. Over 900 elves participated in the race raising over \$30,000 for the food bank.

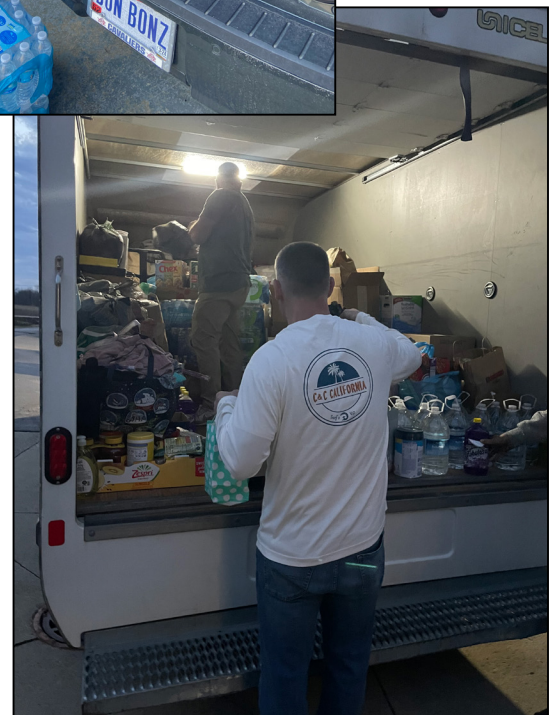


Check out [www.justserve.org](http://www.justserve.org) for how you can help the Akron/Canton Food Bank

# ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Sister Jen von Harten of the Wadsworth Ward heard about the great need of the people of East Palestine following the train derailment and, in partnership with several other local churches, Sister von Harten led coordination across the stake for collection of critically needed supplies which were consolidated together and delivered to those in need in East Palestine.

Thank you to everyone that contributed, and thank you to Sister von Harten for making a difference!



# MISSIONARY UPDATES



**LEVI CARTER**

*Akron Ward*

Started October 2022

Utah Salt Lake City  
Area Service Mission



**JAMIE HERRON**

*Wadsworth Ward*

Starts 3 April 2023

Portugal Lisbon  
Mission



**ISABELLA LEE**

*Akron Ward*

Starts 24 April 2023

Philippines Laong  
Mission

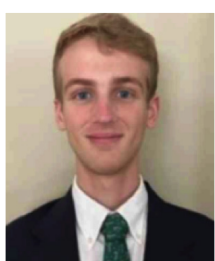


**KAYLEE MILLER**

*Massillon Ward*

Starts 24 April 2023

Brazil Maceió  
Mission



**PETER BRYAN**

*Wadsworth Ward*

Starts 26 June 2023

California Anaheim  
Mission



**SABINA MAGAR**

*Tallmadge Ward*

Returns March 2023

Utah Salt Lake City  
Temple Square Mission

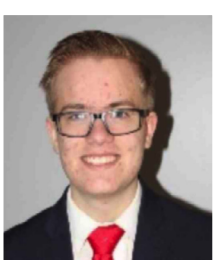


**DANIELLA RYDEN**

*Tallmadge Ward*

Returns May 2023

Taiwan Taichung  
Mission



**DANIEL GARNER**

*Akron Ward*

Returns June 2023

México México City  
North Mission

## BRECKSVILLE HOME STORAGE CENTER

6900 Southpointe Pkwy, Unit C, Brecksville, OH 44141

440-526-4057

HOURS: Wednesday & Thursday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

A food storage list is available at [www.providentliving.org](http://www.providentliving.org).